

MOUNT AUBURN CEMETERY,
BIGELOW CHAPEL
580 Mount Auburn Street
Cambridge
Middlesex County
Massachusetts

HABS NO. MA-1216-A

HABS
MASS,
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70-A-

PHOTOGRAPHS AND
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

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ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE Massachusetts	COUNTY Middlesex	TOWN OR VICINITY Cambridge
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) MOUNT AUBURN CEMETERY, BIGELOW CHAPEL		HABS NO. MA-1216-A
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 580 Mount Auburn Street		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1858	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Dr. Jacob Bigelow	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) The Bigelow Chapel reflects the romantic picturesque style of architectural envisioned for cemetery grounds. It is part of the Mount Auburn Cemetery, a garden cemetery project by Massachusetts Horticultural Society and laid out by Alexander Wadsworth in 1831-32.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) Gothic Revival		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) granite		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) Basically rectangular in shape with a central, 2 story main block with 1 1/2 story side wings connecting.		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Entrance and sides of building flanked by rounded, corbelled buttresses with pinnacle tops, tracery windows, pointed arched entryway with crockets & pinnacle with large rosette window above, rosettes in cornice, wheel windows in side cornice & gable end.		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED)		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES This chapel was built to replace and building constructed of the same design in 1843. The original building was showing signs of structural weakness.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE Good condition; used as chapel		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE The chapel was designed and named for Dr. Jacob Bigelow, a prominent Boston physician, botanist and author, who developed the idea for a rural garden cemetery.		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) National Register nomination, prepared by Patricia Weslowski & Kathlyn Hatch for the Massachusetts Historical Commission, February 1975.		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION C. Lavoie, Historian, HABS/HAER		DATE February 1989